

Message Text

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AMCONSUL ISTANBUL PRIORITY
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SUBJECT: SELECTED U.S. PRESS COVERAGE CONCERNING ADMINIS-
TRATION'S EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN PROGRAM

TEXTS OF THREE ARTICLES FROM THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MON-
ITORS OF APRIL 11 AND 12 FOLLOW:

1. APRIL 11, ENTITLED "TURKEY MAY LET U.S. BASES REOPEN
IN 'PROVISIONAL' DEAL" BY SAM COHEN. BEGIN TEXT. TURKEY
MAY AGREE TO A "PROVISIONAL" REOPENING OF THE AMERICAN
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MILITARY INSTALLATIONS ON ITS SOIL - IF THE U.S. CONGRESS
APPROVES THE LIFTING OF ITS ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST THIS COUN-
TRY.

TURKISH GOVERNMENT SOURCES SAY THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION IS
AWARE OF TURKEY'S WILLINGNESS TO REOPEN THE BASES AFTER THE
ARMS BAN IS LIFTED. THEY HAVE REMAINED CLOSED FOR THE
LAST THREE YEARS BECAUSE OF THE EMBARGO THAT WAS IMPOSED
AFTER THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS IN 1974.

AN "INTERIM" ARRANGEMENT, AS SUGGESTED BY SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE BEFORE THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE APRIL 7, IS POSSIBLE, THESE SOURCES SAY, BUT CERTAINLY NOT BEFORE THE EMBARGO IS COMPLETELY LIFTED.

ACCORDING TO TURKISH OFFICIALS, THE UNITED STATES AND TURKEY MAY START TO NEGOTIATE A NEW BASES TREATY IMMEDIATELY AFTER CONGRESS LIFTS THE EMBARGO AND APPROVES PRESIDENT CARTER'S PROPOSAL TO GRANT TURKEY DOLS 175 MILLION IN MILITARY AID AND DOLS 50 MILLION IN ECONOMIC AID FOR THE 1979 FISCAL YEAR.

BUT SINCE THESE NEGOTIATIONS, AS WELL AS THE RATIFICATION OF THE NEW AGREEMENT BY CONGRESS AND THE TURKISH PARLIAMENT, MAY TAKE SEVERAL MONTHS, A PROVISIONAL DEAL MAY BE CONCLUDED FOR THE REOPENING OF THE MAJOR U.S. INSTALLATIONS, THESE SOURCES SAY. THIS COULD BE DONE SHORTLY AFTER CONGRESS APPROVES THE PRESIDENT'S REQUEST.

IF CONGRESS DOES NOT LIFT THE EMBARGO, THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT WOULD RECONSIDER ITS FOREIGN AND DEFENSE POLICIES, THESE SOURCES SAY. IN THAT CASE, OFFICIALS POINT OUT, TURKEY MAY DISMANTLE THE U.S. BASES.

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AT PRESENT THE TWO DOZEN BASES ARE DEVOID OF ANY LEGAL STATUS. A REDUCED NUMBER OF U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL ARE STILL STATIONED IN THESE INSTALLATIONS. U.S. MILITARY ANALYSTS BELIEVE THAT WHILE SOME OF THESE BASES HAVE LOST THEIR VALUE, THE MONITORING INSTALLATIONS AT SINOP, ON THE BLACK SEA COAST, AND PIRINCLIK, NEAR DIYARBAKIR, IN SOUTHEASTERN TURKEY, ARE STILL OF VITAL IMPORTANCE. THE PENTAGON WOULD LIKE TO SEE THESE TWO BASES REOPENED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, IT IS SAID.

IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHAT THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT'S CONDITIONS WILL BE FOR THE FUTURE STATUS OF THE BASES.
END TEXT.

2. APRIL 12, ENTITLED "ATHENS, POSTPONES ANKARA MEETING - TURKS CITE U.S. ARMS-EMBARGO ISSUE" BY SAM COHEN. BEGIN TEXT. NEW DIFFICULTIES HAVE ARISEN IN GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS AND THE CYPRUS PROBLEM JUST AT A TIME WHEN PROSPECTS FOR A SETTLEMENT OF THESE DIFFERENCES HAD SEEMED BRIGHTER.

THE GREEK GOVERNMENT IS REPORTED TO HAVE DECIDED TO PUT OFF A MEETING BETWEEN HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRIES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES, SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 14 IN ANKARA.

THE MEETING, WHICH HAD BEEN AGREED UPON DURING TALKS BE-

TWEEN GREEK PRIME MINISTER CONSTANTINE CARAMANLIS AND
TURKISH PRIME MINISTER BULENT ECEVIT LAST MONTH AT

MONTREUX, SWITZERLAND, WAS TO CONSIDER THE AEGEAN CON-
TINENTAL-SHELF CONFLICT AND OTHER DIFFERENCES BETWEEN
THE TWO NEIGHBORING NATIONS.

NO OFFICIAL EXPLANATION HAS YET BEEN MADE ON THE REASON
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FOR THE GREEK GOVERNMENT'S CHANGE. A TURKISH FOREIGN
MINISTRY SOURCE SAID, "THIS IS A UNILATERAL DECISION BY
GREECE. OUR POSITION HAS NOT CHANGED."

THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT WAS DISAPPOINTED OVER THE CARA-
MANLIS STATEMENT LAST WEEK DISAPPROVING PRESIDENT CARTER'S
MOVE TO LIFT THE U.S. ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY.
OFFICIALS SAID PRIVATELY THAT THIS WAS AGAINST THE "MON-
TREUX SPIRIT" AND THE ASSURANCES GIVEN BY MR. CARAMANLIS
TO MR. ECEVIT THAT GREECE WOULD NOT TAKE AN OFFICIAL
STAND ON THE ARMS-EMBARGO ISSUE.

TURKISH OFFICIALS EXPRESS THE VIEW THAT GREECE'S DE-
CISION TO CALL OFF THE ANKARA MEETING IS AIMED AT PRE-
VENTING THE U.S. CONGRESS FROM LIFTING THE EMBARGO
AGAINST TURKEY BY PROVING THAT NO PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE
ON IMPROVING GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS.

WHATEVER THE CAUSE, THE FACT IS THAT A DARK CLOUD AGAIN
HAS BEEN CAST OVER POSSIBILITIES FOR A GREEK-TURKISH
RAPPROCHMENT.

PROSPECTS FOR AN EARLY RESUMPTION OF THE CYPRUS PEACE
TALKS ALSO HAVE BEEN OVERSHADOWED BY REPORTS FROM
NICOSIA THAT THE CYPRUS GOVERNMENT WILL INSIST ON HAVING
THE FULL TEXT OF THE TERRITORIAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL PRO-
POSALS WHICH THE TURKISH SIDE IS DUE TO DELIVER TO UN
SECRETARY-GENERAL KURT WALDHEIM IN VIENNA ON APRIL 13.

THE TURKS HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY WILL GIVE A DE-
TAILED OUTLINE OF THESE PROPOSALS TO DR. WALDHEIM AND
WILL BE READY TO PRESENT THE FULL TEXT AT A CONFERENCE
TABLE. THE GREEK SIDE SAYS THE UNDERSTANDING WAS THAT
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THE TURKS WOULD SUBMIT THE FULL TEXT TO THE UN CHIEF.

THE TURKISH CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS ARE UNDERSTOOD TO
PROVIDE FOR A LOOSE FEDERAL SYSTEM IN A BIZONAL, INDE-
PENDENT REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS. THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S

POWERS WOULD BE LIMITED - MAINLY IN THE FIELDS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE - WHILE LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN THE GREEK AND TURKISH SECTORS WOULD HAVE COMPLETE AUTONOMY.

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO SECTORS, AS WELL AS

THE RIGHT TO SETTLEMENT AND PROPERTY, WILL BE RESPECTED AND GRADUALLY IMPLEMENTED WITHIN A PROCESS OF "EVOLUTION"

AS TO THE TERRITORIAL PROPOSAL, IT DRAWS A NEW DEMARCATION LINE, WITH TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS OF ABOUT 4 TO 5 PERCENT TO THE GREEK SIDE, MAINLY ALONG THE NICOSIA-FAMAGUSTA ROAD. A SEPARATE SET OF PROPOSALS ARE ATTACHED TO THE TERRITORIAL BLUEPRINT REGARDING THE FUTURE OF THE GREEK QUARTER OF FAMAGUSTA (VAROSHA). IT OFFERS ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS INCLUDING THE RETURN OF THE GREEK OWNERS OF THE HOUSES, HOTELS, AND SHOPS UNDER TURKISH RULE, OR A STATUS OF A FEDERAL CAPITAL (LIKE WASHINGTON, D.C.) OR A FREE PORT.

THE TURKISH MAP IS UNLIKELY TO SATISFY THE GREEK SIDE WHICH HAS INSISTED ON THE RETURN OF VAROSHA AS WELL AS THE TOWN OF OMORPHOU ON THE ISLAND'S NORTHWESTERN COAST.

THE PROCEDURAL DIFFERENCES, MEANWHILE, DIM THE HOPES FOR AN EARLY RESUMPTION OF THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS IN CYPRUS. TURKISH OFFICIALS SAY THAT GREEK CYPRIOTS ARE DELIBERATELY CREATING NEW DIFFICULTIES IN ORDER TO PREVENT ANY PROGRESS AT A TIME WHEN THE U.S. CONGRESS IS CONSIDERING THE LIFTING OF THE ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY. END TEXT.

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3. APRIL 12, ENTITLED "GREEKS ANGRY OVER U.S. DECISION, WAIT FOR TURKISH PROPOSALS ON CYPRUS" BY JOHN K. COOLEY. BEGIN TEXT. PRESIDENT CARTER'S EFFORT TO GET THE U.S. CONGRESS TO REPEAL THE ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY HAS TOUCHED OFF A SLOW MOTION PROCESS HERE WHICH COULD ALIENATE GREECE FROM BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND THE WESTERN ALLIANCE.

GREEK PRIME MINISTER CONSTANTINE CARAMANLIS, UNDER MOUNTING FIRE FROM HIS OWN OPPONENTS FOR NOT TAKING A STRONG ENOUGH STAND AGAINST TURKEY AND THE UNITED STATES NOW IS WAITING WITH CYPRUS PRESIDENT SPYROS KYPRIANOU, TO HEAR PROMISED TURKISH PROPOSALS TO BREAK THE DEADLOCK OVER THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS.

TURKISH PREMIER BULENT ECEVIT, AFTER TALKS WITH A SUCCESSION OF U.S. VISITORS TO ANKARA, ABOUT WHICH GREECE APPARENTLY WAS NOT KEPT INFORMED BY THE U.S., AGREED TO SUBMIT HIS CYPRUS SCHEME AT SOME POINT AFTER PRESIDENT

CARTER'S ANTI-EMBARGO ANNOUNCEMENT.

PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS WAS ABSENT IN COPENHAGEN PURSUING GREECE'S APPLICATION FOR FULL EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

MEMBERSHIP WHEN THE CARTER ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE, BUT BOTH GREEK DEFENSE MINISTER EVANGELOS AVEROFF AND THE POWERFUL GREEK SOCIALIST PARTY OPPOSITION LEADER, ANDREAS PAPANDREOU, REACTED VIGOROUSLY.

BASE CLOSINGS ASKED

MR. AVEROFF TERMED THE AMERICAN DECISION "NEITHER RIGHT NOR JUST." MR. PAPANDREOU CALLED FOR CLOSURE OF U.S. UNCLASSIFIED

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BASES IN GREECE - MANY OF WHICH ARE OF GROWING IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES SINCE TURKEY CLOSED U.S. BASES THERE IN 1975 IN RETALIATION FOR WASHINGTON'S CONGRESSIONAL ARMS EMBARGO.

STRONG POLICE MEASURES AND DECISIONS BY GREEK SOCIALIST AND COMMUNIST LEADERS TO AWAIT AN ACTUAL DECISION BY THE U.S. CONGRESS HEADED OFF THE THREAT OF ANTI-AMERICAN VIOLENCE HERE. THE FACT IS THAT DESPITE THE CAUTIOUS RESTRAINT OF MR. CARAMANLIS' MAJORITY NEW DEMOCRACY PARTY IN PARLIAMENT, MOST GREEK NEWS MEDIA AND PUBLIC OPINION HAVE BEEN ANTI-AMERICAN SINCE THE TURKISH INVASION.

A CONFIDANT OF MR. CARAMANLIS REPORTS HE WAS SO SURPRISED AND ANGERED BY THE U.S. DECISION WHEN HE HEARD OF IT IN DENMARK THAT HE REFUSED TO SEE U.S. UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE WARREN CHRISTOPHER, SENT TO TRY TO MOLLIFY HIM. EVIDENTLY, NO ADVANCE INFORMATION WAS GIVEN THE GREEK GOVERNMENT BY WASHINGTON, DESPITE THE CONTINUOUS SHUTTLE OF HIGH-RANKING U.S. CIVILIAN AND MILITARY OFFICIALS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND ANKARA THAT PRECEDED THE DECISION.

ONE GREEK FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE CLAIMS THAT AS LATE AS ABOUT ONE WEEK PREVIOUS TO THE DECISION THE UNITED STATES HAD GIVEN PRIVATE ASSURANCES THAT NO EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO LIFT THE EMBARGO BEFORE SOLID PROGRESS WAS ACHIEVED TOWARD A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT.

GOADED BY REPEATED OPPOSITION MOVES, INCLUDING A CABLE TO PRESIDENT CARTER BY CENTRIST EDIK PARTY DEPUTY NIKITAS VENIZELOS, THE GRANDSON OF THE LATE ELEFTHERIOS VENIZELOS, MODERN GREECE'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS STATESMAN, PROMISING TO LEAD A PERSONAL "CRUSADE FOR ABOLITION OF ALL THE AMERICAN AND NATO BASES ON THE ISLAND OF CRETE," MR. VENIZELOS' CONSTITUENCY, MR. CARAMANLIS FINALLY MADE A STRONG STATEMENT APRIL 7.

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TWO PROTESTS MADE

"THE U.S. GOVERNMENT," HE SAID, "IS ENTITLED TO DETERMINE ITS RELATIONS WITH TURKEY AS IT SEES FIT, BUT IT CANNOT DO SO IN A MANNER HARMFUL TO GREECE AND CYPRUS."

CYPRUS PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU ALREADY HAD MADE TWO MORE STRONGLY WORDED PROTESTS, CLAIMING WITH MR. CARAMANLIS THAT U.S. GOVERNMENT WAS COMPLICATING THE CYPRUS SITUATION "FOR LACK OF A STABLE AND CONSISTENT POLICY."

BOTH THE GREEK CYPRIOT AND GREEK NATIONAL LOBBIES IN THE UNITED STATES, WHICH USUALLY WORK TOGETHER IN SUCH MATTERS, HAVE ALERTED THEIR FOLLOWERS FOR A MAJOR CAMPAIGN TO INFLUENCE CONGRESS TO VOTE TO MAINTAIN THE EMBARGO ON TURKEY - AT LEAST UNTIL THERE IS PROGRESS TOWARD REDUCTION OF TURKEY'S OCCUPATION OF 40 PERCENT OF THE ISLAND OF CYPRUS.

CLOSURE OR CLOSE TURKISH SUPERVISION OF SOME OF THE U.S. BASES IN TURKEY, LIKE THE BLACK SEA SITES WHICH MONITOR SOVIET COMMUNICATIONS AND MISSILE TESTS, ALREADY HAVE HARMED U.S. AND NATO DEFENSE. END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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